



INTEGRATED
WASTE
MANAGEMENT
BOARD

Load-Checking for Hazardous Waste at Solid Waste Landfills and Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operations

FACT SHEET

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) provides this information as a tool for solid waste business and industry employees to use while conducting day-to-day operations. By using this fact sheet, the CIWMB hopes to increase the reader's knowledge of load-checking requirements and the types of wastes to look for.

Title 27, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section (§) 20870. Hazardous Wastes

(a) Owners or operators of all MSWLF (municipal solid waste landfill) units must implement a program at the facility for detecting and preventing the disposal of regulated hazardous wastes as defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 261 and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) wastes as defined in 40 CFR Part 761. This program must include, at a minimum:

- (1) Random inspections of incoming loads unless the owner or operator takes other steps to ensure that incoming



loads do not contain regulated hazardous wastes or PCB wastes;

- (2) Records of any inspections;
- (3) Training of facility personnel to recognize regulated hazardous waste and PCB wastes; and



- (4) Notification of the EA, the Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), or its delegated agent, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), if a regulated hazardous waste or PCB waste is discovered at the facility.
- (b) A site shall not accept hazardous wastes unless the site has been approved for the particular waste involved.
- (c) At sites where hazardous materials are processed, precautions must be taken to eliminate or control dusts, fumes, mists, vapors or gases that may be produced in quantities and under conditions which may have harmful effects on site personnel, the general public or animals.

This standard requires owners/operators to conduct random inspections, as determined by the operator or other permit conditions, of incoming loads in order to prevent the disposal of regulated hazardous wastes and PCBs.

Hazardous waste can be flammable, poison or toxic, corrosive or reactive. Hazardous wastes also include asbestos, electronic, and universal wastes. Flammable hazardous wastes include: gasoline, mineral spirits, propane, linseed oil, paint thinner, and oil-based paint. Toxic hazardous wastes can poison, harm or be lethal to an individual. Examples include: pesticide, rat poison, weed killer, arsenic, snail bait and

antifreeze. Corrosive hazardous wastes are those that typically can corrode steel or cause severe burns to human tissues upon contact. Those include: car batteries, hydrochloric acid, alkaline batteries, bleach, lye, and drain cleaners.

Reactive wastes are those that react with other materials to cause a problem or that may undergo violent change without coming into contact with other materials. Examples include: explosives, flares, ammunition, phosphorous and cyanide compounds. Asbestos-containing waste is considered hazardous if it contains greater than 1 percent friable asbestos. Asbestos is considered friable if it can be crushed by hand. Electronic waste or e-waste includes computers, monitors, copiers, fax machines, printers, televisions and other electronic items. Universal waste includes fluorescent lamps, cathode ray tubes, instruments that contain mercury and batteries.



The facility should have a hazardous waste detection program in place. The objective of that program is to remove hazardous wastes and dispose of them properly. Training of facility personnel should emphasize methods to identify containers and labels typical of hazardous and PCB wastes. It should address hazardous waste handling procedures, safety precautions, and record keeping requirements. Adequate training may be provided by the operator, through a private contractor, local enforcement agency (LEA), the CIWMB, DTSC, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), or a university that has a curriculum specializing in identification and handling of hazardous wastes.

All inspection records, training procedures, and notification procedures required by this standard are required to be placed in the operating record (27 CCR §20515. Record-keeping Requirements).



When hazardous waste is discovered, the operator should isolate the material. The operator should attempt to determine the source of the material. If the waste does not present an immediate threat it should be properly stored in accordance with 22 CCR requirements. Many landfills have hazardous waste storage units. 22 CCR specifies how long hazardous waste can be stored on-site and when a facility is required to obtain a hazardous waste generator permit. For more information on the requirements of 22 CCR, please review the Department of Toxic Substances Control Load Checking Fact Sheet at www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/upload/HWM_FS_LoadChecking_Landfills.pdf. If the facility does not have a hazardous waste storage unit it should contact the appropriate county hazardous materials unit.

If hazardous waste is seen in the working face or other unpermitted areas of the site, it is a violation of state minimum standards unless it is also seen by the operator who then takes appropriate action.



No waste that is defined as hazardous waste and not excluded under 22 CCR §66261.2, 66261.3, and 66261.4 (Appendix F) may be legally disposed at a class III landfill. Waste

containing more than 1 percent friable asbestos can be received and disposed of at some nonhazardous landfills, but specific handling requirements found in Title 14, Chapter 3.5 must be followed. Illegal receipt or storage of hazardous waste must be brought to the attention of the DTSC or the local agency that is responsible for the implementation of the hazardous waste program.



Hazardous wastes that are received and separated from the waste stream must be handled with the proper precautions to protect site personnel, the public, or animals until disposed of properly. These precautions include adequate packaging, labeling and secure storage until removal, appropriate personal protective equipment, and adequate personnel decontamination facilities.

Additional Information on Specific Hazardous Wastes

Asbestos: Asbestos-containing waste is considered hazardous if the asbestos contains greater than 1 percent friable asbestos. Asbestos is considered friable if it is crushable by hand pressure. The disposal of friable asbestos is prohibited unless special precautions have been taken and a permit has been approved. Non-friable asbestos may be disposed at a landfill, but care should be taken to avoid crushing or breaking it to ensure that no fibers are released.

Lead Acid Batteries: A hazardous waste facilities permit may not be required if, in accordance with Health and Safety Code §25218.8, up to one ton of used lead-acid batteries (approximately 50 batteries) are stored for a maximum of one year; or more than one ton of such batteries are stored for up to 180 days. For

estimating purposes the industry standard is 40 pounds per battery. All batteries should be stored in accordance with 22 CCR requirements.

E-Waste: Includes computers, monitors, copiers, fax machines, printers, televisions, cell phones, and other electronic items. Laws and policies concerning the proper management of electronic product discards are evolving rapidly. Since certain components of electronic devices may be considered hazardous due to heavy metal or other constituents, they are prohibited from disposal at solid waste facilities. For more information on e-waste, visit the CIWMB electronic product management web page: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/electronics/ or the DTSC Electronic Hazardous Waste web page: www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/EWaste/index.cfm.

Empty Pesticide Bags: Will not be subject to regulation as hazardous waste if emptied such that no pesticide material remains in the bag that can be poured, drained, or otherwise feasibly removed.



Oil: Up to 5,000 gallons of used oil may be legally stored for up to 90 days with proper secondary containment without having a permit as a hazardous waste storage facility in accordance with Health and Safety Code §25123.3 and 22 CCR §66262.34. Tank systems must comply with secondary containment requirements of 22 CCR §66265.193, unless exempted in accordance with §66265.193(g) or granted a variance under §66265.193(g).

Used oil filters may be managed as nonhazardous waste only if the conditions set forth in 22 CCR §66266.130 are met.

PCBs: Most applications using PCBs were discontinued before 1977. The most common devices PCBs were used in that would be encountered in a load-checking situation are



fluorescent light tube fixtures (the ballasts), capacitors, old microscopes, and hydraulic oils. Although the amount of PCBs in many of these products is very small, it is also very concentrated.

Universal Waste: Hazardous waste regulations now designate a category of hazardous wastes called “Universal Waste.” This category includes fluorescent lamps, cathode ray tubes, instruments that contain mercury, batteries, and others. Until recently some universal wastes generated by households and small quantity

generators could be disposed in solid waste landfills. However, now all universal wastes must be treated as hazardous wastes. For more information on universal waste visit the CIWMB Universal Waste web page at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LEACentral/uniwaste/ or the DTSC web page at www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/index.cfm.

For further guidance on this issue, please contact your local enforcement agency (LEA). If you are not sure who your LEA is, please visit our LEA Directory web page at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LEACentral/LEADirectory/. You can also contact the California Integrated Waste Management Board’s Waste Compliance and Mitigation Program for additional information at (916) 341-6360.

Related Statutes and Regulations

- 22 CCR §66261.2, 66261.3, 66261.4 (Appendix F), 66262.34, 66265.193, 66266.130
- 27 CCR §20515 Recordkeeping
- 40 CFR, Part 261 and Part 761
- Health and Safety Code, §25123.3, 25218.8

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